

COMFORT

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in over a Million and a Quarter Homes*

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COMFORT

EDITORIALS

THOUGHTS THAT BREATHE AND WORDS THAT BURN.

United States Enters the Great Conflict to Rid the World of the Curse of Military Despotism

WE are now at war with the enemy of mankind. The conflict was not of our seeking. We did all that we could to avoid it without sacrificing our national honor. War was forced upon us by that military despotism which is striving by the most cruel means in defiance of the law of nations and the common sense of humanity to subdue the world to its tyrannical will. Long and patient had we suffered destruction of lives and property which it had treacherously instigated and executed in our midst through its spies and diplomatic representatives. It had secretly attempted to induce Mexico and Japan to join it in war against us by threatening to do the same to them if they did not permanently hold a part of our territory, and finally, when its armed forces engaged in open hostilities against us we could not do otherwise than resort to arms, for there was no other means of defense.

President Wilson stated the situation correctly when, before Congress on the second day of April, he asserted that by the indiscriminate sinking of the peaceful ships of all nations the German government was waging war against all nations, against mankind. He was right in saying that submarines are outlaws when used as Germany has used them. They are abominable, and especially in causing the slaughter of men, women and children who were passengers on such ships and that the situation, aggravated by a long series of plots and intrigues against our peace and safety, had become unbearable. He was absolutely right in claiming that a state of war already had been declared upon the government and people of the United States by the German government, and he was in duty bound to ask, as he did, that Congress recognize that fact by a formal declaration and provide the means "to bring the German government to terms and end the war."

The President draws a sharp distinction between the German people, with whom he says we have no quarrel, and their autocratic government which he accuses of having swept them into the world war without their previous knowledge or option. For the German people to experience friendship and sympathy in the same cause that they will soon follow the recent example of the Russian people by establishing a democratic government in place of the despotism which now oppresses them and is a pest to the peace-loving democratic people of the world. He is convinced that "Prussian autocracy could never be friend to that autocratic government could be compelled to keep faith," and that "a steadfast concert for peace can never be maintained except by a partnership of democratic nations." "We are about to accept the gage of battle with that natural foe to us. We are about to do our duty for the ultimate peace of the world and for the liberation of its people, the German people included."

There are hopeful indications that many of the people in Germany are beginning to see the matter in much the same light as the President views it, and are likely to take up the cause of government in itself. They are still too numerous to be ignored. The sooner they do it the better, for England, France and Russia, like the United States, have resolved never to make peace with Prussian militarism.

In England and Italy government by the people is incomplete and an army established in America, for the kings and nobles which these countries still retain to gratify their love of pomp and pageantry are mere puppets long since shorn of all governmental power. Autocratic government is a survival of the dark ages and is out of joint with twentieth century. The people of Russia are still at war, but have emerged into the light of freedom under the energizing stimulus of war. Germany and her allies are the only European nations over which autocratic rulers hold sway, and their thrones are tottering.

It is a world-wide conflict of autocracy against democracy that we have entered, and it cannot end until the autocratic yoke of Prussia is wiped off the face of the earth. The issue is vital to the most sacred rights and broadest interests of humanity and there can be no compromise. In order to give substantial foundation to the hope that this is to be the last great war it would be well to finish it quickly, whereby permanent peace shall be assured, and the establishment of government of the people, by the people and for the people in every civilized country.

Through the ages war has been the price paid for human progress, and it is a logical step. World conditions that stood as obstacles in the path of progress and could not otherwise be removed made the present war inevitable sooner or later. It has come in our time and we must bear our share of the burden. Do not credit the popular opinion that the war, unbreakably frightful though its duration will be, will be a return to civilization. It will purify the world and clear the way for a new and better order of things. The cause of liberty will be triumphant throughout Christendom, it will bring universal religious tolerance, it will end forever the bloody and baneful rule of the military despotism of Europe, chastening and purifying man's material will be richer spiritually while the leveling of castles will broaden and strengthen the bond of human interest and sympathy between the social classes.

And we Americans will be bettered by the lessons we shall learn and the sacrifices we shall have to make. United with patriotism and aroused to a deep sense of devotion we shall prove ourselves above all other contestants by the way we shall eliminate waste in which we are notorious as a people, thrifit will take the place of extravagance, and the seriousness of the work before us will have a sobering influence and turn our thoughts and aims to something better and higher than the mere pursuit of pleasure, and not the love of gain. Our country will be the natural blessing of uniting the various elements of our diversified population in a common cause, a common interest and a common purpose.

Military Necessity that the Farmers Raise Large Crops in America

THERE is a world-wide shortage of food that, unless relieved by larger and better harvests the coming season in America, threatens a high price premium for the government in carrying on the war. It has assumed the proportions of a national crisis, and to meet it the government has supplemented the general movement for the planting of vacant city lots and school and school gardens with an urgent appeal to the farmers to plant their lands to raise as large crops possible this season as a patriotic duty under stress of military necessity. The military experts on both sides agree in the opinion that the war has reached a stage in which the determining factors are food and ships—food for the people, food for the armies, food, fuel, freight ships to transport the food and war-ships to convoy and protect them from submarines.

Although we are to raise a large army to join the forces of the Allies in fighting Germany in German soil, it will not be drilled and equipped for service under a year. Meanwhile France and England have as many soldiers in the field as they can feed under present conditions, and the food problem, both for their armies and for their civil population in those two countries, is becoming more difficult. We in America are self-sufficient in time of peace, and now that so many of them are engaged in the pursuit of war the farming there is carried on largely by women and children, which has resulted in diminished

food production. The deficiency has been and must continue to be supplied mostly from America. Our phenomenally large harvest of 1915 demanded this an easy and difficult task last year, but the loss of large numbers together with the loss of so many ships sunk by submarines makes it a troublesome proposition at present. The German and Austrian ships which we have taken over with those we have and those we are building, and the destroyers of our navy are confidently relied on to care for the transportation question satisfactorily. So the basic question of winning the war comes back to the American farmers.

The American farmers never have failed and never will fail of patriotic devotion. They are not asked now to meet the foe with their rifles as they did most valiantly at Lexington of old; in the present war they can render their country no less patriotic and more effective service in the field. The corn field, the cotton field, with the plow, the cultivator and the reaper in repelling the threatened invasion of the land by famine, the gaunt, irresistible enemy that stalks beside war. Nor will they miss their reward, for prices are high and are bound to range higher for the duration of the war. Steady prices are to be maintained to prevent speculation in food stuffs, and it is proposed to have the Federal government, if necessary, take over the products of the farms to protect the people from extortionate prices and ensure fair remuneration to the farmers.

Must Stop Food Waste or We Shall Suffer Want is Government's Warning

EVEN though our best efforts at production are aided by favorable growing weather the results are likely to be inadequate, and in case the season proves unfavorable the consequences will be disastrous unless we economize and conserve our present supply by cutting out all preventable waste. We are the most wasteful people in the world. Our waste has always amazed and shocked Europe whose economists have often told us that a European family could live well on the food that an average American family wastes. The necessity for reducing is so pressing that our government, through its department of Agriculture, has launched a vigorous campaign to stop the waste of food in our homes—a needless, wicked waste estimated at seven hundred million dollars' worth a year.

The world's food supply is short and is bound to continue so for a year or more. Unless you wish to pay higher prices next fall and winter and suffer the pinch of hunger, too, stop wasting food. One difficulty in doing so is that waste has become so habitual with us that much of our such—and we do not know how to check it. Write to the Department of Agriculture, Office of Information, Washington, D. C., for its valuable and instructive free bulletins on economical use of foods and saving waste.

Watch for and Report Enemy Spies

OUR country is flooded with enemy spies intent on destroying lives and public and private property and instigating treason. They have done much damage. Hundreds of them are under arrest, but thousands are still at large—sneaking, treacherous, skulking murderers. Forgive me if I say that open enemies. It is the duty of every local citizen to keep on the watch for them and promptly inform the local authorities and the war Department, at Washington, of any persons whose conduct or talk is suspicious. Remember, they are not all Germans they may be of any nationality—*Some are native Americans.*

COMFORT'S EDITOR.

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The Doings of The Dapperlings

By Lena B. Ellingwood

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BLUERBERRIES

PITTSYNG an' Simmie-Sannie were going blueberrying, up beyond the Pine Tree on the hill. You remember they come from another part of the hill? But unless their mother said they might, but now, blueberries were ripe, and she had told them that, then, some of them they would be very careful not to get lost.

"If you get enough berries, I'll make them into jam," said Pittsyng.

"We'll get enough for 'leven-two pies. What you see?" said Simmie-Sannie.

"I don't know how thick the berries are up there. We plan to get you all you want, and then sell some, too. I'm going to get a box and a bag, and then Pittsyng's going to take the two-quart one. And we'll both take pint dipping-pots."

The mother laughed, but said they might, if they liked, and kissed them both good-by.

"I'll ring the big bell when it's time for you to come home, and the girls will tell them."

They started off happily, the pint dippers rattling in the tin pails as they slipped along.

The children had to walk to reach the blueberry bushes, though they didn't see anyone else, and they were soon eating, and eating, peeling each other with the berries, and filling the little baskets.

"Hush! Listen! The children are coming," called Skippywishes, who was sitting on the fence, keeping watch. "They're coming for berries, for they have pails. We'll have some fun with them."

The mother laughed, but said they might, if they liked, and kissed them both good-by.

"I'll ring the big bell when it's time for you to come home, and the girls will tell them."

Pittsyng went on, and was not long in filling her dipper up in the pretty blue bails.

"Stop! Stop! Stop! Stop! Stop! Stop! Stop! But when on poured them into the five-quart pail, they Jam! I seem like so many."

She lay down on the grass, and found a living on his stomach with his feet in the air, and an empty dipper before him.

"We hasn't so been picking berries," she demanded.

Sannie-Sannie jumped up and showed a face with a red, red nose.

"I did," he said. "A whole lot, but I wasn't pickin' berries."

"What was so bad? I'd help you pick 'em on the ground, if you like them."

"I spilt 'em on down the road, through my nose."

"Oh, then I didn't know you'd be such a piggy! And now I know we'll have some fun, and I'll help you pick berries at the store. If I buy 'em alone, I shall use 'em alone. But then, you're only just a baby!" she added, with a smile.

"I am a baby. You'll see. I'm a going to pick my whole pail full in a minute quicker'n you."

"Come on, then, and if I get my dipper full first, I'll help you fill yours before we empty them."

When the children's backs were turned, the Smallest Dapperling of All came out from behind a bush, and took his little skirts tight with blueberries, and running to Pittsyng, a pail turned her berries into it. Ben Zippington did the same, and Skippywishes did his little sum-me-Sannie a pail.

"If that's what you call having fun, you'll scold Nannie, and I'll be sorry if I don't have a map instead," he said. "So we'll get him up in one end of a hollow log, and went to sleep."

The other Dapperlings waited away with, keeping out of the children's sight, though

they almost got caught. Why, Nannie had to stand behind the fence post by the children's pails, and hold her skirts tight around her, to empty to empty their dippers.

"Pittsyng, you have a berry in your pocket!" exclaimed Skippywishes.

"I didn't!" Simmie-Sannie answered.

"Reber, they're here!" They certainly were.

"Twas a good a-laughing," said Simmie-Sannie.

"And there ain't nobody to laugh.

"Aw, come along and pick some more berries. Who's afraid?" Just think how much you like

they almost got caught. Why, Nannie had to stand behind the fence post by the children's pails, and hold her skirts tight around her, to empty to empty their dippers.

"Pittsyng, you have a berry in your pocket!" exclaimed Skippywishes.

"I didn't!" Simmie-Sannie answered.

"Reber, they're here!" They certainly were.

"Twas a good a-laughing," said Simmie-Sannie.

"And there ain't nobody to laugh.

"Aw, come along and pick some more berries. Who's afraid?" Just think how much you like

them best."

Then Nannie had a single-ramshorn. "I

was some way off all right. There is another that I have, but I don't know where it is. It's only a chest most of life are ready to snare it with."

"I am a white, while one touch of wealth too often makes a man a fool, and a fool is a fool."

Uncle Charlie is a glorious thing, however, when he comes along, and I am a fool, and a fool is a fool."

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